

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.2 Adopt Minutes Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2021-22 Budget 23 June 2021

The purpose of this Report is for Council to adopt the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2021-22 Budget held on Wednesday, 23 June 2021.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved By Cr. K. A. Maguire

Seconded By Cr. C. T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that:

1. The Unconfirmed Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2021-22 Budget held on Wednesday, 23 June 2021, copies of which have been circulated to Members, be taken as read and confirmed.

CARRIED



Special Meeting of Council
ADOPT 2021-22 Budget Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 23 June, 2021
Time: 12:30 pm
Location: WDRC - Corporate Office - Boardroom
30 Marble Street, Dalby Qld 4405

Voting Members:

- Cr. P.M. McVeigh (Chairperson)
- Cr. A.N. Smith
- Cr. K.A. Bourne
- Cr. P.T. Saxelby
- Cr. K.A. Maguire
- Cr. I.J. Rasmussen
- Cr. M.J. James
- Cr. O.G. Moore
- Cr. C.T. Tillman

Officers:

- S.M. Peut, Acting Chief Executive Officer
- G.K. Cook, General Manager (Infrastructure Services)
- J.K. Taylor, General Manager (Community and Liveability)
- J.L. Weier, Senior Executive Officer
- H. Wex, Executive Officer to Mayor
- E. Kendall, Communications and Marketing Manager
- E. Lambert, Chief Finance Officer
- C. Prain, Management Accountant

1. DECLARATION OF MEETING OPENING

The Chairperson declared the Meeting open at 12.30pm.

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Section 254J of the Local Government Regulation 2012 in relation to Closed meetings provides:

(1) A local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the local government be closed to the public.

(2) A committee of a local government may resolve that all or part of a meeting of the committee be closed to the public.

(3) However, a local government or a committee of a local government may make a resolution about a local government meeting under subsection (1) or (2) only if its councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting to discuss one or more of the following matters—

(a) the appointment, discipline or dismissal of the chief executive officer;

(b) industrial matters affecting employees;

(c) the local government's budget;

(d) rating concessions;

(e) legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government;

(f) matters that may directly affect the health and safety of an individual or a group of individuals;

(g) negotiations relating to a commercial matter involving the local government for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government;

(h) negotiations relating to the taking of land by the local government under the Acquisition of Land Act 1967;

(i) a matter the local government is required to keep confidential under a law of, or formal arrangement with, the Commonwealth or a State.

(4) However, a local government or a committee of a local government must not resolve that a part of a local government meeting at which a decision mentioned in section 150ER(2), 150ES(3) or 150EU(2) of the Act will be considered, discussed, voted on or made be closed.

(5) A resolution that a local government meeting be closed must—

(a) state the matter mentioned in subsection (3) that is to be discussed; and

(b) include an overview of what is to be discussed while the meeting is closed.

(6) A local government or a committee of a local government must not make a resolution (other than a procedural resolution) in a local government meeting, or a part of a local government meeting, that is closed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - CLOSE MEETING

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That Council resolve to close the Meeting in accordance with Sections 275 (1) (c) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* at 12.34PM to discuss the following Confidential Reports:

1. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of 2021-22 Operational Plan (c);
2. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of 2021-22 Budget - Council Policy and 2021-22 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy (c);
3. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy (c);
4. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Revenue Statement 2021-22 (c);
5. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates 2021-22 (c);
6. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Rescinding General Rate Capping - Council Policy (c);
7. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Special Charges for 2021-22 (c);
8. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of 2021-22 Utility Charges (c);
9. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions 2021-22 (c);
10. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2021-22 (c);
11. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Procedures for Levying Rates and Charges 2021-22 (c);
12. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Discount for Prompt Payment Rates and Charges 2021-22 (c);
13. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Interest Charges on Overdue Rates 2021-22 (c);
14. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of National Competition Policy Compliance - Council Policies for 2021-22 (c);
15. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Debt - Council Policy for 2021-22 (c);
16. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of Estimated Position 30 June 2021 and Financial Analysis (c);

17. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of the 2021-22 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy (c); and
18. Corporate Services Confidential Report Recommended Adoption of 2021-22 Budget including the Long-Term Financial Plan (c).

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION - REOPEN MEETING

MOVED by: Cr. O.G. Moore

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That Council resolve to reopen the Meeting at 12.48PM.

CARRIED

3.1 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of 2021-22 Operational Plan

The purpose of this Report is to Council's formal adoption of the 2021-22 Operational Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council adopt the 2021-22 Operational Plan, as proposed.

CARRIED

3.2 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of 2021-22 Budget - Council Policy and 2021-22 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed 2021-22 Budget - Council Policy and accompanying 2021-22 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2009, Council resolves to adopt the 2021-22 Budget - Council Policy and 2021-22 Financial Management Strategy - Council Policy.

CARRIED

3.3 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 169 (2) and Section 193 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy be adopted.

CARRIED

3.4 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Revenue Statement 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the proposed 2021-22 Revenue Statement.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. A.N. Smith

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 104 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolve to adopt the 2021-22 Revenue Statement as proposed.

CARRIED

3.5 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates to apply in the 2021-22 Financial Year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to make and levy the proposed Differential General Rates and Minimum General Rates for 2021-22. This resolution will be made in accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009* and Section 81 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, and pursuant to the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement.

CARRIED (8 to 1)

3.6 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption Rescinding General Rate Capping - Council Policy

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed rescinding of the General Rate Capping - Council Policy..

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with section 116 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy, the General Rate Capping - Council Policy and the 2021-22 Revenue Statement, that Council resolve to rescind the General Rate Capping - Council Policy.

CARRIED

3.7 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Special Charges for 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Special Rates and Charges for 2021-22.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. O.G. Moore

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the proposed 2021-22 Special Charges, pursuant to the provisions of the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement.

CARRIED

3.8 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of 2021-22 Utility Charges

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed 2021-22 Utility Charges.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. O.G. Moore

Seconded by: Cr. M.J. James

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 Local Government Act 2009 and the 2021-22 Revenue Policy - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement, Council resolve to adopt the 2021-22 Utility Charges.

CARRIED (8 to 1)

3.9 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed Rates and Charges and Special Charges Concessions to apply for 2021-22.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That this Report be received and that in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue – Council Policy 2021-22 and the Revenue Statement 2021-22, Council resolves to adopt the granting of:

1. Council Pensioner Rate Concession

- a. A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of 20% (up to a maximum of \$200 per annum) of gross rates and charges (except for Special Rates and Charges, Separate Rates and Charges, Emergency Management Levy Charges, Water Consumption Charges, Charges on the Land and Miscellaneous Fees and Charges) be provided to eligible pensioners in accordance with the State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme in 2021-22. This Concession is provided pursuant to Sections 120(1)(a), 121(a) and 122(1)(b); and
- b. A Council Pensioner Rate Concession of 20% (up to a maximum of \$200 per annum) be provided to occupants of independent living units at aged care facilities and retirement villages and who are also pensioners under Section 123(1) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The concession will be provided to eligible pensioners where:
 - i. part of the rates or charges that the Council considers is attributable to the part of the land where pensioners have a right to exclusive occupancy (Section 123(2) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*), and
 - ii. the land owner agrees to pass the benefit of the rebate on to the pensioners.

2. Mining or Quarrying Special Charges Concession

Pursuant to Sections 120(1)(c), 121(a) and 122(1)(b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (the Regulation), Council resolves to grant a concession to a ratepayer who is a member of a stated class of ratepayers, as follows:

Stated class of ratepayers

The concession is granted to a ratepayer levied a special charge for road maintenance and/or road resealing and/or road reconstruction where the activity occurring on the rateable land, where the activity is the reason for the levying of the special charge, is presently dormant. Those activities are either mining or quarrying.

Type of concession

The concession is by way of a rebate of the special charge for 2021-22 only.

Conditions

The concession is granted subject to the following conditions:

- a. The concession is granted only for the levied special charge in respect of the 2021-22 year.
- b. If the activity, that is the reason for the levying of the special charge, recommences during the course of 2021-22, this concession ceases and Council must levy the special charge for an amount calculated by subtracting from the 2021-22 special charge an amount equal to the number of days the mining or quarrying activities were not operating divided by the number of days in the year (365), multiplied by the 2021-22 special charge.

CARRIED

3.10 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2021-22.

GM Cook left the meeting at 12.58pm.

GM Cook rejoined the meeting at 12.59pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolves to adopt the proposed Register of Cost Recovery Fees and Commercial Charges for 2021-22.

CARRIED

3.11 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Procedures for Levying Rates and Charges 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the procedures for the Levying of Rates and Charges 2021-22.

GM Cook left the meeting at 1.01pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. M.J. James

Seconded by: Cr. O.G. Moore

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the provisions of the 2021-22 Revenue - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement, Council resolve to adopt the procedures for Levying of Rates and Charges for 2021-22 on the following basis:

Description of Rates/Charges	Frequency	Basis
Differential General Rates	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Special Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Separate Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Waste & Recycling Collection Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Environmental Waste Levy Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Water and Recycled Water Access Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year
Water and Recycled Water Volumetric Charges	Half Yearly	Based on Consumption
Water and Recycled Water Volumetric Charges (High Water Consumers as determined by Council)	No more than Bi-Monthly and no less than Half Yearly	Based on Consumption
Sewerage Charges	Half Yearly	50% of total for year

2. In accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the provisions of the 2021-22 Revenue - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement, Council resolve to adopt the procedures for Levying of Rates and Charges for 2021-22 on the following basis:

Description of Rates/Charges	Frequency	Basis
Gas - non-domestic connections	Monthly	Based on Gas Consumption and periodic access charges
Gas - domestic connections	Quarterly	Based on Gas Consumption and periodic access charges

3. In accordance with Chapter 4 Part 1 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the provisions of the 2021-22 Revenue - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement, Council resolve to adopt the procedures for Levying of Rates and Charges for 2021-22 on the following basis:

CARRIED

3.12 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Discount for Prompt Payment Rates and Charges 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the Discount for Prompt Payment of Rates and Charges for 2021-22.

GM cook rejoined the meeting at 1.02pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolve to adopt, in accordance with Section 130 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* and the provisions of 2021-22 Revenue - Council Policy and 2021-22 Revenue Statement, the proposed discounts are listed in the table below:

Rate/Charge	Discount Rate Applicable
General Rates (incl. Minimum General Rates)	5%
Water Charges incl. Access and Water Consumption Charges	5%
Recycled Water Charges incl. Access and Water Consumption Charges	5%
Sewerage Charges	5%
Environmental Waste Levy	5%
Waste/Recycling/Cleansing/Garbage/Refuse Collection & Disposal Charges, Rural/Commercial/Industrial Waste Charge	5%

These discounts shall apply when all relevant rates and charges, including any arrears and interest, are paid in full by the due date and time, being close of business of Council offices, or its agents, on the discount date which will be a day no less than 30 days after the date of issue of the Rates/Utility Charge Notice.

CARRIED

3.13 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Interest Charges on Overdue Rates 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council for its consideration the rate of interest to be charged on Overdue Rates and Charges in 2021-22.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. P.T. Saxelby

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That this Report be received, and that:

1. Council resolve to adopt the application of interest at the maximum rate of 8.03% per annum be applied from 1 July 2021, on all rates and charges (excluding overdue gas accounts) which remain unpaid 30 days after the due date for payment.

CARRIED

3.14 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of National Competition Policy Compliance - Council Policies for 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration:

1. The following Policies:
 - The 2021-22 Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy; and
 - The 2021-22 Dividend Payment - Council Policy.
2. The 2021-22 Dividend Payments and 2021-22 Community Services Obligations.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that Council resolves to:

1. adopt the proposed 2021-22 Code of Competitive Conduct - Council Policy.
2. apply a Community Service Obligation Payment to the following businesses during 2021-22:
 - i. Water,
 - ii. Waste Management, and
 - iii. Saleyards.
3. adopt the 2021-22 Dividend Payment - Council Policy, as proposed, and

4. receive dividend payments from the following businesses during 2021-22:
 - i. Commercial Works,
 - ii. Gas,
 - iii. Sewerage,
 - iv. Quarry, and
 - v. Washdown Bays.

CARRIED

3.15 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Debt - Council Policy for 2021-22

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2021-22 Debt - Council Policy for the budget year and the subsequent nine (9) financial years.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. C.T. Tillman

That this Report be received and that:

1. In accordance with Section 192 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council resolve to adopt the proposed 2021-22 Debt - Council Policy.

CARRIED

3.16 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of Estimated Position 30 June 2021 and Financial Analysis

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the Statement of Estimated Financial Position. The document also provides an analysis of variations between the 2021-22 Budget and the 2020-21 Revised Budget and 2020-21 Estimated Position.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

Seconded by: Cr. A.N. Smith

That this Report be received and that:

1. The Statement of Estimated Financial Position which includes the Financial Operations and Financial Position of Council for 2020-21 be adopted.

CARRIED

3.17 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of the 2021-22 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy

The purpose of this Report is to provide to Council, for its consideration, the 2021-22 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. K.A. Bourne

Seconded by: Cr. M.J. James

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council resolve to adopt the 2021-22 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy; and
2. Pursuant to Section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Council resolve to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer all powers detailed in the 2021-22 Rates and Charges Collection - Council Policy, including the power under Section 134 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to recover rates and charges by bringing Court proceedings for a debt.

CARRIED

3.18 Corporate Services Confidential Report Adoption of 2021-22 Budget including the Long-Term Financial Plan

The purpose of this Report is to recommend the 2021-22 Budget and the 2021-22 Long-Term Financial Plan, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 169 and 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by: Cr. I.J. Rasmussen

Seconded by: Cr. K.A. Maguire

That this Report be received and that:

1. Council adopts the 2021-22 Budget, prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 169 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*; and
2. Council adopts the 2021-22 Long-Term Financial Plan, prepared in accordance with the requirements of Sections 169 and 171 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*.

CARRIED

4. MAYORAL BUDGET STATEMENT

2021/22 Budget Statement
Mayor Paul McVeigh
23 June, 2021



Mayoral Budget Statement

Thank you everyone, it is my pleasure to officially adopt the 2021-22 Council Budget.

The Western Downs is a diverse region at the forefront of the changing world.

Council is proud to deliver the services, facilities, projects and events that look after the needs of our community right now, and for generations to come.

Over the last financial year, we commenced the rollout of Council's single largest ever investment - our COVID-19 recovery package.

This supported our community at a time when it was most needed - and we continue to see the positive impacts of this comprehensive stimulus across the region.

We endorsed this future-shaping package with one thing in mind - the continued sustainability of our region.

Our focus on ensuring the Western Downs remains a fantastic place to live, work and visit remains stronger than ever, and today we deliver a budget that drives growth and certainty.

Council is committed to ensuring the region remains an affordable place to live.

Today I am pleased to announce Council has completed a thorough review of our rating categories.

This was vital in making sure our rating system was clear and fair to all ratepayers, and an important part in making sure we remain sustainable.

As a result, Council has consolidated its rating categories down by 99 – that's a reduction from 217 to 118 categories.

Specifically, residential categories have reduced from 46 down to 7. Commercial and Industrial has also been consolidated from 70 down to 44, and Rural categories have consolidated from 56 categories down to 25.

I am proud to say our rating system is now more transparent, clearer and a more accurate representation of our community.



2021/22 Budget Statement
Mayor Paul McVeigh
23 June, 2021



Sustainable Organisation

The Western Downs is surging forward as a desirable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Our region's Gross Regional Product sits at a massive \$5.54 billion and our economy is thriving.

Council is working hard to deliver the infrastructure and facilities needed to support this growing economy, as well as ensuring our essential services remain of the highest standard.

This budget includes a 4.5% general rates rise.

That is despite rural land valuations in our region rising by anywhere between 25% to 40%. Even after this year's rates increase, we see a reduction of around \$1 million in rates revenue due to a decline in the resource industry.

Our agile business model means that despite this, we are able to remain debt free, keep rates low in comparison with other Councils, and remain one of the most affordable places to live in Queensland.

When comparing our towns with others of a similar size across the state, our residents pay by far the least.

We are also continuing to match the State Government's Rates Subsidy Scheme, offering qualifying pensioners a 20% rebate on rates and charges excluding water consumption – up to a maximum of \$200 per year.

Our strong focus on the future coupled with our financial intelligence and responsible management has allowed us to go above and beyond for our community.

I am proud to announce that the popular water tank rebate scheme will continue this financial year.

This program is about boosting community resilience and alleviating pressures on water supply by offering generous subsidies to residents installing new rain water tanks.

We've had a huge uptake in this program over the past 12 months which has seen an additional 3.2 million litres of water supply added to the region.

This is absolutely wonderful and we are excited to continue the program in the year ahead.



2021/22 Budget Statement
Mayor Paul McVeigh
23 June, 2021



Quality Lifestyle

\$16 million is also being invested into the long-term viability of the Dalby town water supply as part of a five year strategy which begins this year.

This investment shows we are serious about building water security to meet demand and support our region's growing economy.

Building connectivity across our region also remains a key priority for this Council, and a massive \$44.5 million is allocated this year to improving local roads.

Additionally \$1 million will also be invested into new and upgraded footpaths.

The highly successful Adopt a Street Tree Program is also continuing this year, with around \$400,000 committed to this fabulous program.

Since its introduction in 2017, 5,753 trees have been planted across the Western Downs, making our region cleaner and greener and strengthening community pride.

Active, Vibrant Community

We want to ensure our recreational spaces and community facilities are safe, attractive and accessible for all residents.

This budget includes a continuation of a massive \$19.8 million allocated to our beautiful parks and open spaces to boost our liveability.

Last year we announced our accelerated major projects program to generate economic growth and improve our fantastic natural spaces.

This year we continue to deliver on this region-wide program and build a legacy for generations to come.

We're also making our local parks more inviting for residents, with improvements planned for several much-loved spaces in our smaller towns.

We continue the delivery of a \$24.2 million program to improve much-loved facilities like community halls, cultural centres, pools, libraries and showgrounds.

Included in this, are major projects like a replacement of the Tara Pool, brand new public space at 120 Cunningham Street in Dalby, and a revitalised Miles CBD streetscape.



2021/22 Budget Statement
Mayor Paul McVeigh
23 June, 2021



We also want to make sure our open spaces and facilities are alive with activities, with \$3 million invested in local community programs.

This includes funding for a variety of wonderful community initiatives as well as exciting initiatives such as the FlickerFest Short Film Festival, Groovin' in the Garden, outdoor movie nights, and stand up comedy shows.

Strong Diverse Economy

We're a forward-thinking Council, committed to ensuring our region continues to prosper now, and into the future.

Our region has built a reputation as a premier destination for major events in Queensland that drive tourism and energize our local economy.

This budget includes funding for the much-loved Big Skies Festival, Opera at Jimbour, Words out West, and the Dalby Drone Forum.

It also includes funding for our tremendous destination events - Dalby Delicious and DeLIGHTful Festival, Tara Festival of Culture & Camel Races, Chinchilla Melon Festival, Jandowae Timbertown Festival, Miles Back to the Bush Festival, and the Dalby stockhorse sales.

We're excited to see this magnificent lineup of events returning to our region and we're proud to support the tireless efforts of our festival committees.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the work of both Councillors and staff in preparing this budget for the Western Downs community.

This budget is about a more sustainable way forward - and I am confident Council's continued responsible financial management will deliver great outcomes for all residents.

Thank you.



5. MEETING CLOSURE

The Meeting concluded at 1.24PM.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true record of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Special Meeting of Council ADOPT 2021-22 Budget held this 23rd day of June 2021.

Submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held this Wednesday, 21 July 2021.

Cr. P.M. McVeigh

MAYOR OF WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

UNCONFIRMED